

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-14 and 18, 19, 21 and 22 remain pending in the application.

Allowed Claims 1-9, 11-13, 21 and 22

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-9, 11-13, 21 and 22 are allowed.

Section 112, Second Paragraph Rejection of Claims 14, 18 and 19

Claims 14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 14, 18 and 19 are amended herein to be more definite.

In particular, claim 14 is amended herein to recite that the current source is connected between a power source and a first side of the transistor switch path.

Claim 18 is amended herein to explain that the pull-down mirror path in parallel with the current switch operates to ensure a **stable** current flow from the current source to the load when the current switch is switched on.

Claims 14, 18 and its dependent claim 19 are now more definite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection now be withdrawn.

Claims 18 and 19 over Harston

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,343,196 to Harston ("Harston"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 18 and 19 are amended herein to recite a pull-down mirror path comprising an amplifier and a switch controlling current flow to the amplifier, in parallel with a current switch, that operate to ensure a stable current flow from the current source to the load.

The Examiner cites Fig. 3 of Harston as allegedly teaching "a method for reducing charge injection from a current source through a current

switch into a load”, though the Examiner agrees that Harston fails to show or disclose reduction of charge injection. (Sept. 2, 2003 Office Action at 5)

Harston discloses the use of two PMOS transistors MP2, MP3 for connecting the drain of MP1 either to the output line 24 or to AGND 26. (Harston, col. 2, lines 60-63)

Claims 18, and its dependent claim 19, are amended herein to recite a pull-down mirror path comprising an amplifier and a switch controlling current flow to the amplifier, in parallel with a current switch, that operate to ensure a stable current flow from the current source to the load.

It would appear that the Examiner would agree that the pull-down mirror path as recited renders claims 18 and 19 allowable. For instance, the Examiner indicates that there “is no motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure the pull-down mirror path comprises a switch and an amplifier as recited within claim 1”. This language relating to allowable subject matter is amended herein into claims 18 and 19.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 18 and 19 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Bollman
Reg. No. 36,457

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER PLLC
2000 M Street, NW 7TH Floor
Washington, DC 20036-3307
TEL. (202) 261-1020
FAX. (202) 887-0336